AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing a broadband conferencing service comprising the steps of:

receiving a telephone call from a calling party at a telephony network;

establishing a voice channel over the telephony network between a called party and the calling party; and,

automatically establishing a separate, parallel virtual data channel between the called party and the calling party over a packet data network in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network, wherein a voice communication between the called party and the calling party is carried over the voice channel of the telephony network and a data communication between the called party and the calling party is carried over the separate virtual data channel of the packet data network.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a virtual data channel further comprises:

determining a configuration of CPE for the calling party;

determining a configuration of CPE for the called party; and,

establishing the virtual data channel between the calling party and the called party if the configuration of CPE for the calling party is compatible with the configuration of CPE for the called party.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of launching an application over the virtual data channel, the application capable of interacting with both the calling party and the called party.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the calling party sending data to the called party over the virtual data channel.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the steps of determining the configuration of the calling party's CPE and the called party's CPE comprise interrogating a database having configuration information to determine if the calling party's and called party's CPEs have compatible broadband access capabilities.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of establishing a voice channel and a virtual data channel with at least one additional party, wherein the voice channel is established over the telephony network and the virtual channel is established over the packet data network.

8-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a broadband conferencing service comprising:
    receiving a telephone call from a calling party at a telephony network;
    establishing a voice channel over the telephony network between a called party and the calling party;
    automatically establishing a virtual data channel between the called party and the calling party on a packet data network in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network, after a voice conversation begins over the voice channel, wherein the voice channel and the virtual data channel operate in parallel to provide a synchronized voice and data transmission between the calling party and the called party.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein automatically establishing the virtual data channel further comprises establishing the virtual data channel between the calling party and the called party if a configuration of

customer premise equipment CPE for the calling party is compatible with a configuration of CPE for the called party.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising launching an application over the virtual data channel between the calling party and the called party, the application capable of interacting with both the calling and called parties.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising transmitting video signals over the virtual data channel in parallel with transmitting a voice conversation over the voice channel.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising establishing the voice channel and the virtual data channel with at least one additional party, wherein the voice channel is established over the telephony network and the virtual data channel is established over the data network.

26.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing broadband access services allowing a voice and data communication between at least two parties comprises:
    receiving a telephone call from a calling party over a subscriber loop in communication with a telephony network;
    establishing a voice channel from the calling party to the called party over the telephony network via the subscriber loop; and,
    automatically, in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network, determining a data address for the calling party on a data network and a data address for a called party on the data network, and establishing a virtual data channel from the calling party to the called party over the data network via the subscriber loop, wherein the voice channel carries voice information and the virtual data channel carries non-voice information concurrently over the subscriber loop.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the data address for the called party and the data address for the calling party comprise internet protocol IP addresses.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of the calling party transmitting data over the virtual data channel using an asynchronous transfer mode ATM transmission protocol.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising adding an additional party to the voice and data communication between the calling party and the called party.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein adding the additional party comprises:
        connecting the additional party to the virtual data channel by transmitting a data address for the additional party to each of the calling and called parties and transmitting the data addresses of the calling and called parties to the additional party, wherein all parties share information over the virtual data channel concurrently with communications over the voice channel.